

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Peter 1:12-21

Lesson 3

Peter knew his life on earth was drawing to a close. In his concern that people not fall prey to believing the lies of the false prophets, he felt a strong need to remind the believers in his care of truths they had already been taught. The lessons of this letter reveal to us what was most important to Peter. The truths Peter wrote of were grounded in experiences; experiences that forever etched in his life a love for the Savior and a love for His word.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 2 Peter 1:12-21 has been divided into 2 sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 12-15

Verses 16-21

How would you title each section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 1.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God, Jesus, knowledge (known/knowing), and glory*

New to this lesson: *Holy Spirit, remind/reminding/reminder, tent, and truth*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 1:12-21. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Note the term of conclusion, *for this reason*, in verse 12. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?
4. Peter used the contrasting term *but* in verses 16 and 21. Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.

5. Notice the three uses of some form of the word *remind*. Make a list of each time the word is used.

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 1:12,13

1. What was Peter's great concern for these believers as expressed in 2 Peter 1:12-15?
2. Thoughtfully print Peter's determined purpose in response to his concern for them. 2 Peter 1:12a
 - a. Notice the phrase: *I will not be negligent*. How does this speak to you about *always reminding* other believers of *these things* of 2 Peter 1:3-11?
3. What do we learn about the believers to whom Peter was writing in 2 Peter 1:12b?
 - a. We would think that their *knowing*, having been taught, *these truths* and being *established*, well grounded in *these*, that there would be no need to persevere in *reminding* them of *these things*. Even though we *know* them and are *established in the present truth*, why do we have to be *reminded*?
 - b. In practical terms, how can forgetting *these things* affect our behavior?
4. Observe the word *tent* in 2 Peter 1:13,14. This was a common word for the physical body. First century Christians were very aware of the transitoriness of life. As long as Peter was in this *tent*, what did he want to do for these believers? 2 Peter 1:13 and 2 Peter 3:1
 - a. In what ways are our bodies like *tents*?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 1:14,15

1. In verse 13 Peter said, *Yet I think it right to keep refreshing your memory so long as I still lodge in this body* NEB. There is urgency in Peter's expressions in these verses. 2 Peter 1:14 provides an explanation for this. What is it?

2. This verse makes it clear that Peter knew his death was imminent. The words *just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me* allude to the Lord's prophecy to Peter in John 21:18(19). What did Jesus tell Peter?
 - a. Pause and think about the last two words of John 21:19. What is most important in our life no matter what our future holds?

3. Historians generally agree that Peter was crucified upside down by Nero, the Emperor of Rome. This apparently happened shortly after this letter was written. How does a message from a man who knows he is going to die soon add power to his words?

4. Peter's heart's desire for these believers is evidenced in 2 Peter 1:15. Write this verse here.

5. How do the words *I will be careful* indicate Peter's personal dedication to the believers and to the truth?

6. Peter's desire was that these believers would *always have a reminder of these things* long after his physical departure from this life. He wanted to make sure he did all that he could to fulfill this desire. Consider the spiritual legacy Peter left to others. What kind of legacy do you desire to leave for those you love?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 1:16-18

1. Thoughtfully write 2 Peter 1:16 phrase by phrase.
 - a. What do you learn from this verse? Answer in your own words.

2. "A witness is the best evidence of fact." Now describe Peter's *eyewitness* account of the *transfiguration* of Christ from 2 Peter 1:17,18.
 - a. In what way do you think 2 Peter 1:16-18 would affect the reader's acceptance of Peter's letter to them?

3. Peter was an *eyewitness* to the Father's testimony of the Son. Jesus received *honor and glory* from God. God identified Jesus by saying, *This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased*. How does this Divine testimony give you added confidence in the message of the Gospel?
 - a. Notice and record the last two words of Matthew 17:5 in relationship to the *transfiguration* of Christ.
 - 1.) How do these words speak to you today?

4. Review 2 Peter 1:16-18. Why do you think Peter wrote these verses?
 - a. How do these verses increase your faith in the *coming* again of Jesus?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

1. After using His glorious experience on the *holy mount* to provide evidence for the truth of his message, Peter now confirms the inspiration of the Scriptures. From 2 Peter 1:19a what does Peter say we have?
 - a. *The prophetic word confirmed* refers to the inerrancy of Scripture as the greatest and clearest revelation of God to man. The word *prophetic* or *prophecy* is used three times in the last three verses of 2 Peter 1. In what way do Peter's earlier words about *prophecy* in 1 Peter 1:10-12 shed light on the meaning here?

2. The sentence that began in 2 Peter 1:19 concludes with verse 20. Write what we are to *know first*, according to verse 20.
 - a. Why is this important to *know* and understand?

3. *No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation*, as far as the writer of the *prophecy* is concerned. That is, the meaning or interpretation does not come from the prophet himself, but from God through the Holy Spirit as 2 Peter 1:21 states. Carefully and thoughtfully write 2 Peter 1:21 considering each phrase.
 - a. Peter is verifying the Word of God did not originate from man. Where did it originate?
 - 1.) How did Scripture come to be written? 2 Peter 1:21

 - 2.) The phrase, *moved by the Holy Spirit*, could be read "being carried along by the Holy Spirit". How does 2 Timothy 3:16 support this concept?

 - 3.) In what way does knowing that the Scriptures are inspired (God breathed) strengthen your faith?

4. Ponder the truth of 2 Peter 1:20,21. What do these verses indicate to you about the importance of your Bible?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 1:12-21

1. Recall from the following verses Peter's desire for believers:
 - 2 Peter 1:12
 - 2 Peter 1:13
 - 2 Peter 1:15
2. If you knew that you *shortly must put off your tent*, what would you write to the ladies in your Bible study?
3. Peter wrote these things to *remind*. We all have a tendency to forget God's truths. What Biblical truth do you often need to be *reminded* of?
4. From 2 Peter 1:16-21, what did you learn that substantiates Peter's claim that he did not follow *cunningly devised fables*?
 - a. In our present day many religions and philosophies claim to have the truth, or else claim that all roads lead to God. How does this lesson help you refute this?
5. Explain, as you would to someone who believed the Bible was written by men and not inspired by God, why you know the Bible is the Word of God.
6. What part of this lesson has been most profitable to you?

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*
- Psalm 19:7,8